A1 cancel'd

administering the antiviral agent to the subject.--

--13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the antiviral agent is a purine analog.--

A2

--17. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the sickle cell disease is selected from the group consisting of sickle cell anemia, sickle β-thalassemia, sickle cell-hemoglobin C disease and any other sickle hemoglobinopathy in which hemoglobin S interacts with a hemoglobin other than hemoglobin S.--

--18. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a mouse, rat, dog, guinea pig, ferret, rabbit, primate, or human being.--

--19. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the antiviral agent is administered to a subject via intralesional, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intraperitoneal, liposome mediated, transmucosal, intestinal, topical, nasal, oral, anal, ocular or otic delivery.--

Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove amended claims 8-13 and 17-19. These amendments do not involve any issue of new matter. Therefore, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested such that claims 1-19 will be pending.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the number

provided below.

No fee, other than the enclosed filing fee of $475.00, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

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--8. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 2, [3, 4 and 7,] wherein the hemoglobin is Hemoglobin S.--

--9. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 2, [3, 4 and 7,] wherein the hemoglobin is Hemoglobin SC.--

--10. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 1, [3, 4, 5, 6, and 7,] wherein the cell is an erythrocyte cell.--

--11. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 5, [6, and 7,] wherein the suitable sample is a sample of erythrocyte cells.--

--12. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 3 [and 4], wherein the cell is present in a subject and the contacting is effected by administering the antiviral agent to the subject.--

--13. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 1[-7], wherein the antiviral agent is a purine analog.--

--17. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 1, [5, 6 and 7,] wherein the sickle cell disease is selected from the group consisting of sickle cell anemia, sickle β-thalassemia, sickle cell-hemoglobin C disease and any other sickle hemoglobinopathy in which hemoglobin S interacts with a hemoglobin other than hemoglobin S.--

--18. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 1, [5, 6, 7 and 12,] wherein the subject is a mouse, rat, dog, guinea pig, ferret, rabbit, primate, or human being.--

--19. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 1, [5, 6, 7 and 12,] wherein the antiviral agent is administered to a subject via intralesional, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intraperitoneal, liposome mediated,

transmucosal, intestinal, topical, nasal, oral, anal, ocular or otic delivery.--